

# HUMAN KINDNESS FOUNDATION

A Little News Magazine

Christmas 1990

## END OF AN ERA

*Everything passes, everything changes,  
Just do what you think you should do...*

— To Ramona, Bob Dylan

Dear Friends,

This is a time of major change around here. No, we're not closing down entirely (we hope), but we do have to amputate some major limbs if the patient is to survive.

What will remain unchanged is that as long as there's a penny to its name, the Human Kindness Foundation will continue to publish and sell my books and tapes, and send free copies to prisoners, prison workers, and people who can't afford to pay for them. But that's about all we'll be able to do from now on.

That means no more personal correspondence. No more talks, lectures, workshops or retreats (in or out of prisons). No more help with parole plans or specific prison situations. No more quarterly newsletters, although we will still send an annual one, around Christmas (so the next one you receive will be Christmas '91).

We do love each and every one of you, but with scarce funding and over 20,000 people writing to us, the only way we can express our love is through the books I've worked so many years to create.

There's nothing impersonal about my books; my heart, soul, best advice and clearest insights are in them. We're indeed your family, but the family has grown so large, we have to honor the natural limitations on how we can communicate with each other. Otherwise, the whole organization will fold and my books and tapes will no longer be available to the hundreds of new people who write to us each week.

Seventeen years ago, I corresponded with a few prisoners and others about the idea of using our time, wherever we are, to become truly free. Nowadays, sheer numbers require us to go about that in bigger, more sophisticated ways, but what we're doing is exactly the same. And every time you sit still and turn inward, we'll be right there with you, along with many thousands of your brothers and sisters across the world who are exploring the Great Mystery at the same time. There's no distance between us in The One.

## The Financial Picture

Financially, it's obvious that donations may never fully support our free distribution of books and tapes to prisoners. Each year we add a few donors and a few *thousand* prisoners and other "comps" to our mailing list. Without a major gift like a million-dollar endowment, we have only two other options to narrow the gap between donations and expenses: Increase book & tape sales; and decrease our costs.

The steps we've taken to increase sales include: a better catalog; some small classified ads in magazines; seeking out more distributors and catalogs to carry our materials; and a better system of sending out review copies. Beyond that, with no promotional budget, we rely on faith that people who like my books and tapes will spread the word.

Ironically, our greatest marketing obstacle seems to be the success of our own Prison-Ashram Project: I've become so identified with prison work, most people assume my books and tapes are of interest only to the prison-oriented world. So, we're trying to clarify what has always been the case: I'm not a "prison teacher;" I'm a writer and teacher who has simply worked a lot with prisoners. Truth is truth, and it applies to us all. If we develop enough of a market to sell even one-fourth the number of copies we give away, we can roll along pretty well.

As for decreasing our expenses, we're pulling in the belt pretty tightly:

- 1) Though it's been a great relief to finally have a fulltime office manager after all these years, we clearly can't afford it. Judy will no longer work here, but may help out part-time or handle the mail when we're out of town. Sita and I will resume Judy's work, and we also hope to recruit a few local volunteers to help with the overload.
- 2) We've scrapped plans to build a bigger office and to upgrade our computer systems.
- 3) As mentioned above, newsletters will be annual instead of quarterly, saving us about \$25,000/year.



But no matter how lean we're willing to be, there's no way to escape the expenses of keeping a worldwide project going. Each package we send to prisoners costs us \$6 - \$10, and we send between 500 and 1,000 packages per month. Postage alone now runs about \$1,500 per month. I doubt we'll ever again be able to operate on less than \$100,000 per year. Especially as times get worse, more people become interested in the Spiritual Journey.

### Prisoners & Money

Many of our supporters have written saying, "Listen Bo, not all prisoners are broke. Why don't you appeal to prisoners to do more on their end? Why can't they pay for what they get?"

We have mixed feelings about that. Our main goal since 1973 has been to give a simple, no-strings-attached gift to prisoners and prison workers, and other people who for one reason or another are flat broke. We want to continue offering what we offer as a gift of Love.

On the other hand, maybe we've gone too far in *shielding* prisoners from the idea of supporting our work. You prisoners can't pay for what you receive from us -- a gift never requires payback -- but you can certainly make donations toward future inmates being able to receive the same things for free.

If that seems like a word game, I assure you it's a very big difference spiritually. Instead of a payment or an obligation, your donation is an act of kindness toward other cons whom you've never even met. That's an important step along the Journey.

It's true that many prisoners are not broke. Many spend more than a dollar a day on cigarettes. If we received an average of even a dollar per year for every inmate on our mailing list, that would be \$20,000 right there. It's also true that it feels good to sacrifice a little for something you believe in, so maybe we've been wrong by not encouraging prisoners to become part of our support system.

This newsletter is going to over 20,000 people, prisoners and non-prisoners alike. Now you all have an equal glimpse into what's going on, and an equal opportunity to consider what part you wish to play.

This is a very simple project now: Books and tapes are sent freely to prisoners around the world, and a friendly update is sent once a year to keep us all connected. That's all. If you want that project to exist in your world, you need to help make it happen. Our supporters have mostly been sending checks after receiving newsletters. We wonder whether your donations will continue now that you'll only hear from us once a year, but that's a question only time can answer. That's all there is to say about money, except that whatever happens, Sita and I love you and wish you the best.

### The Personal Picture

Although funding has forced some of our timing, not all of these changes are about money. For the past couple of years, I've been reflecting a lot about my role in our work.

My best inner guidance tells me it's time to stop teaching, at least for the foreseeable future. Now that my books and tapes are widely available, and our son is grown and gone, it's time for me and Sita to take a quantum leap inward. It's going to take some time, without "being somebody" or "knowing anything." If I do ever again give teachings, I'd like it to be from an entirely different level of consciousness, hopefully one which doesn't require so many words.

I've never played games with you about who I am or am not; I have been an honest and inspired spiritual teacher, and I've got a long way to go before I'm any sort of spiritual master. A teacher may answer your questions convincingly, but a master's awareness is so powerful, the questions themselves leave your mind. A teacher's personal presence may deeply impress you, but a master's presence is so powerful, it humbles you instead. I'm in my mid-forties now, and I've expressed the ageless teachings for many years. It would be hypocritical to everything I've taught if I didn't move further toward becoming fully enlightened.

Remember, this transformational journey I've been talking about all these years is real; it's not mumbo-jumbo. We all actually have an opportunity to become saints, to become wondrous human beings who experience and share Love radically differently from anything we can imagine.

But it takes guts. We have to be willing to follow the inner guidance we've worked so hard to recognize. We have to keep moving into the beyond, leaving behind not just our problems and weaknesses, but even our most enjoyable, successful identities. And we have to have faith that our own movement forward never pushes anyone else backwards. Sita and I aren't "abandoning" anyone; we're just letting our books and tapes do their work while we continue to do ours. I assure you, expanded Love and Awareness will always be shared somehow. That's what "expanded" is all about!

I'll continue to work here, but instead of being "Dear Bo...", I'll be quietly unloading the trucks, programming the computers, ordering office supplies, repairing the roof, doing typesetting, etc. No more appearances anywhere, inside or outside of prison (Yay! I'm finally off the "New Age" circuit!).

No more writings like *We're All Doing Time* and *Just Another Spiritual Book*. The truths in those two books won't go out of fashion, and they belong to you now. The teacher who wrote them



moved on; Sita and I are just the old hippies who send them to you, with all our blessings and love. I hope we continue to receive yours, too.

I'm still working on short stories and music, because both those art forms seem to probe subtler levels of the mind and heart (we'll be sure to let you

know if new materials become available). I'll also write the annual newsletter to let you know what's happening around here and on our inner quest. Stick around; it might get interesting. And wish us luck as we plunge deeply into The Great Mystery!

## OTHER NEWS & NOTES

### • New Book Available

Our newest publication, *Just Another Spiritual Book*, is here. Prisoners can get a free copy simply by writing us (no long letters!). The book sells for \$12, as described on the bottom of this page and in our catalog. The new book is 384 pages, and is a lively collection of talks, interviews, essays and letters.

Prisoners in Texas, notice the happy news below; you can send us one request for both books.

### • We Won In Texas !!!

That's right, David slew Goliath! After two years of legal challenges, the Texas Department of Corrections reversed its decision to ban *Lineage and Other Stories*. So, any of you Texas convicts who would like a copy of the "dangerous" little book, just drop us a kite and we'll send you one with great pleasure.

I want to express my deepest gratitude for your hundreds of letters of support, and for the free, excellent legal help given us by Professor Barry Nakell at the University of North Carolina, and by attorney James Randall Smith in Houston, and his paralegal, John Draper. They all invested a lot of time and personal expense to strike this blow at TDC's arbitrary censorship policies toward nearly 50,000 inmates. Thanks isn't a big enough word!

### Important: Please Read

Now that our newsletter will come only once a year, we have to keep our mailing list more current than ever before; otherwise we'll be wasting precious trees and thousands of dollars by sending newsletters to people who are long gone or who no longer want to receive them.

So, here's the new system: Anytime during the year, if you send a donation or order anything, or request any free materials, you'll be automatically updated for the next mailing. If none of the above applies, you need to send us a brief note at least once a year, asking to be kept on our active mailing list.

Please be kind enough to help us save time, money, and natural resources. We want to stay in touch with you, but each December we'll have to drop all the people we haven't heard from in the past year.

### • Your Responses & Suggestions

In response to the letter we sent in October to our non-prison mailing list about our lack of funds, we've received several hundred donations, notes of encouragement, and fundraising suggestions.

We regret that we can't answer you personally, but we're deeply moved by your support, which as of this writing totals about \$30,000 -- enough to take us into 1991. We also can't turn our attention to all the ideas you offered us, but we thank you for them. I assure you we're doing everything we can.

### • Josh Lozoff Gets A Big Break

Many of you have written to ask how our son Josh has been doing since he left home and headed for Hollywood. Here's some great news: After fifteen months of hard work and hard knocks, he's landed a meaty guest role on TV's top-rated show, *CHEERS*.

We don't know the exact air date, but it'll probably be in December or January. He'll be playing Carla's son Gino, which means that if enough viewers like him, he may become a recurring character. It gives us great pleasure to share our pride and joy with you. He's a wonderful young spiritual warrior, and he'll bring a lot of light with him wherever he goes.

The Human Kindness Foundation is non-profit & tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. Donations and bequests are always welcomed and are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Materials are offered free to prisoners and prison workers, and at nominal cost to others. Currently available are Bo's books, *WE'RE ALL DOING TIME* (\$10 U.S., same for the Spanish, *TODOS ESTAMOS ENCARCELADOS*), *JUST ANOTHER SPIRITUAL BOOK* (\$12 U.S.), and *LINEAGE AND OTHER STORIES* (\$7 U.S.); plus his folk/rock album of original songs, *STUMBLING TOWARD THE LIGHT* (tape or LP, \$8 U.S.); the audiotape sets of *WE'RE ALL DOING TIME* (seven tapes, \$30 U.S.) and *LINEAGE AND OTHER STORIES* (two tapes, \$15 U.S.); a 90-minute tape of talks and discussion (\$8 U.S.); and a 2-hour VHS video, *An Evening With Bo Lozoff* (\$30 U.S.). Please add \$2 postage per total order. All proceeds go to the Human Kindness Foundation, helping us to continue producing and distributing free copies for prisoners.



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THE LOZOFFS,

TREKKING TOWARD THE TRUTH! — —

RICK MORGAN